FLEXIBLE REMOTE DATA MIRRORING

RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims priority to, and incorporates by reference, the following

5   commonly owned copending applications: serial no. 09/438,184 filed November 11, 1999; serial

now pat# 6,116,621

no. 60/209,469 filed June 5, 2000; serial no. 60/223,934 filed August 9, 2000; serial no.

60/262,143 filed January 16, 2001.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10   The present invention relates to the remote mirroring of digital data from a server or other

computer in order to provide better fault tolerance and/or disaster recovery, and relates more

particularly to tools and techniques for increasing the flexibility of remote data mirroring.

TECHNICAL BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15   United States Patent No. 5,537,533 describes tools and techniques for remote mirroring

of digital data from a primary network server to a remote network server. A system according to

that patent includes a primary data transfer unit with a primary server interface and a primary

link interface, and a remote data transfer unit with a remote link interface and a remote server

interface. The primary link interface includes a spoof packet generator capable of generating a

20   pre-acknowledgement for the primary network server. That is, the system has a "smart buffer"

which gives the primary server a pre-acknowledgement or "spoof" after mirrored data has been

stored on a nonvolatile buffer in the primary link interface and before an acknowledgement

arrives indicating that the mirrored data has been stored by the remote server.